

What is claimed is:

1. A textured hearing instrument shell.
2. A hearing instrument, where at least a portion of the
5 instrument is inserted in the ear of a user, comprising an outer surface
where at least a portion of the outer surface has a texture.
3. A hearing instrument as set forth in claim 2, where the
texture is non-smooth.
- 10 4. A hearing instrument as set forth in claim 2, where the
texture comprises a non-reflective finish.
5. A hearing instrument as set forth in claim 2, where the
15 texture comprises a series of lines, equally or unequally spaced, or a
plurality of regular or irregular repeating shapes.
6. A hearing instrument as set forth in claim 2, where the
texture comprises a predetermined or randomly generated pattern.
- 20 7. A hearing instrument as set forth in claim 2, further

comprising a faceplate comprising a textured outer surface.

8. A hearing instrument outer surface, where:
at least a portion of the hearing instrument is inserted in the ear of a
5 user; and
at least a portion of the outer surface has a texture.

9. A hearing instrument outer surface as set forth in claim 8,
where the texture is non-smooth.
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10. A hearing instrument outer surface as set forth in claim 8,
where the texture comprises a non-reflective finish.

11. A hearing instrument outer surface as set forth in claim 8,
15 where the texture comprises a series of lines, equally or unequally spaced,
or a plurality of regular or irregular repeating shapes.

12. A hearing instrument outer surface as set forth in claim 8,
where the texture comprises a predetermined or randomly generated
20 pattern.

13. A textured hearing instrument outer surface.

14. A hearing instrument where at least a portion of the instrument is inserted in the ear of a user and comprising an outer surface,
5 where at least a portion of the outer surface has a texture made by a process comprising blasting the surface with an abrasive or grit, or applying ultraviolet light, laser, infrared heat, hot air, or another heat source to the surface.

10 15. A hearing instrument, where at least a portion of the instrument is inserted in the ear of a user, comprising an outer surface, where:

the hearing instrument is fabricated as a series of layers; and

at least a portion of the outer surface has a texture made by a
15 process comprising applying waveforms to the edges of one or more of the layers during the process of fabrication.

16. A hearing instrument, where at least a portion of the instrument is inserted in the ear of a user, comprising an outer surface
20 where at least a portion of the outer surface has a texture made by a process comprising:

fabricating a mold cavity derived from surface contours of the user's ear; and

modifying the mold cavity to create a texture in the outer surface.

- 5 17. A hearing instrument, where at least a portion of the instrument is inserted in the ear of a user, comprising a shell comprising an outer surface where at least a portion of the outer surface has a texture, where:

the texture comprises

- 10 a series of lines, equally or unequally spaced; or
a plurality of regular or irregular repeating shapes; or
a predetermined or randomly generated pattern; and

the texture is made by a process comprising

- blasting the surface with an abrasive or grit; or
15 applying ultraviolet light, laser, infrared heat, hot air, or another heat source to the surface; or

 applying waveforms to the edges of one or more of the layers during the process of fabrication.

- 20 18. A hearing instrument outer surface, where at least a portion of the instrument is inserted in the ear of a user and at least a portion of

2001P16281US

the outer surface has a texture, where:

the texture comprises

a series of lines, equally or unequally spaced; or

a plurality of regular or irregular repeating shapes; or

5 a predetermined or randomly generated pattern; and

the texture is made by a process comprising

blasting the surface with an abrasive or grit; or

applying ultraviolet light, laser, infrared heat, hot air, or

another heat source to the surface; or

10 applying waveforms to the edges of one or more of
the layers during the process of fabrication.

19. A hearing instrument, where at least a portion of the
instrument is inserted in the ear of a user, comprising a shell comprising

15 an outer surface where at least a portion of the outer surface has a
texture, where:

the texture comprises

a series of lines, equally or unequally spaced; or

a plurality of regular or irregular repeating shapes; or

20 a predetermined or randomly generated pattern; and

the texture is made by a process comprising

2001P16281US

fabricating a mold cavity derived from surface contours of the user's ear; and

modifying the mold cavity to create the texture in the outer surface.

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